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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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## Big Crop Production Expected

Record-breaking crop production is expected this year. Aggregate production prospects July 1 were 128 percent of the '23-32 average. Previous records, 123 percent in '42 and 126 percent in '46. For the 52 principal crops, nearly 351 million acres are estimated for harvest this year after allowing for acreage losses. This total exceeds last year's acreage by nearly 2½ million acres and exceeds the average during the war years by 4½ million acres. June weather was mostly favorable for field work and development of crops.

## Record Corn Crop

Corn planted exceeds intentions by a half million acres and the 3.3 billion bushel corn crop indicated July 1 will exceed production in all previous years. Forecast is 39 percent larger than last year's production and 18 percent above average. Expected yield is 38.9 bushels per acre. Yield last year, 28.6 bushels; 10-year average, 31.4. Previous record--in '46--36.7 bushels per acre.

## Liberal Feed Grain Supplies

Feed grains stand out in the huge indicated crop volume. To the largest corn crop in history are added an oats crop of 1.4 billion bushels and barley production of 307 million bushels, both well above average; and sorghum grain production probably larger than in any of the past 3 years. Feed grain supplies, even with only small stocks of old grains, will be the most liberal per animal unit on record.

## Grain Stocks on Farms, July 1

Corn on farms July 1--426.4 million bushels; year ago, 677.4 million; July 1 average, 655.8 million bushels.

Oats on farms--171.5 million bushels; year ago, 257 million; July 1 average, 193.8 million bushels.

Wheat on farms (old crop), 94.3 million bushels; year ago, 40.5 million; July 1 average, 92 million bushels.

Soybeans on farms, 4.3 million bushels; year ago, 6.4 million bushels.

## Plenty of Hay in Sight

Hay per animal also will be ample. Though hay production, at 95 million tons, may be smallest since '39, stocks of 15 million tons carried over from last year are large and animal numbers are down.

## Near Record Crops of Wheat, Rice and Rye

Food grains are at high level. Wheat crop indicated at 1,242,000,000 bushels is 4 percent larger than earlier forecasts and will be second largest crop in history. Rice will set a new acreage record. Indicated production of 79.2 million bushels also will be near record. Rye, forecast at 27 million bushels, will be the largest crop since '43. Buckwheat acreage is likely to be relatively small.

## Acreage Shifts Favor Food and Feed

Significant shifts among crops have been made from previous prospective acreages...shifts which tend to indicate heavy production of food and feed grains. Decreases from prospective acreages include a half million acres of hay, same of oats, quarter-million acres of spring wheat, 100 thousand acres each of dry peas and soybeans, and 86 thousand acres of sugar beets. These decreases were more than offset by increases over prospective plantings of more than 800 thousand acres in barley, half-million acres of corn, over 300 thousand acres in flax, 100 thousand acres each of sorghums and dry beans, and 67 thousand acres in rice. The reduction in spring wheat acreage is partly covered by an increase of 168 thousand acres of winter wheat over the May 1 forecast of acreage for harvest. Acreage of meadows plowed up is being used more profitably for corn, barley and flax...need for hay being less with fewer animals to feed.

## Favorable Prospects for Oilseed Crops

Flaxseed production is expected to be nearly 44 million bushels, exceeded only in '43 and nearly two-thirds larger than 10-

year average. Soybean and peanut acreage, while below last year, will be relatively large. About 9.9 million acres of soybeans are reported for harvest as beans. This is 1-1/4 million less than last year, but is above the 10-year average of 7.2 million acres. Indicated for peanuts grown alone, a little over 4 million acres. Average during the war, 4.1 million acres.

## Tobacco Production Down 17 Percent

Tobacco production this year is indicated at 1,757 million pounds, off from last year by 17 percent. Most of the decline is in flue-cured. Production this year was about 1 billion pounds; last year, 1.3 billion. Burley produced will be about 2 percent below '47. Fire-cured and dark air-cured down about 21 percent and 16 percent. Season for flue-cured has been generally favorable...not quite so good for Kentucky and Tennessee's burley.

## Cotton Acreage Up 10 Percent

Cotton acreage totals 23.7 million acres...2.2 million acres, or 10 percent, more than last year but only a little above 10-year average ('37-46). Highest increases are in California, New Mexico and Arizona with acreages up 51, 37, and 22 percent, respectively. Other cotton States show heavy to moderate increases, except Oklahoma.

## Potato Crop, Up 2 Percent From '47

Potato production will be about average and up from last year by about 2 percent. Based on harvestings to date and condition July 1, a crop of 391.8 million bushels is indicated. Last year's crop was 384.4 million; '37-46 average, 392.1 million bushels. The 2,109,000 acres for harvest are nearly same as the 2,112,000 acres harvested last year, but only three-fourths of '37-46 average. Indicated yield, 185.8 bushels per acre. Last year it was 182; '37-46 average, 139 bushels.

## Small Crop of Sweetpotatoes

Sweetpotato crop is the smallest since '24. Less than 50 million bushels indicated. More than 57 million harvested last year...nearly 65 million '37-46 average. Acreage, small...downward trend since '32 when more than a million acres was for harvest. Acreage this year, 541 thousand, 26 percent below '37-46 average.

## More Dry Beans, Less Peas

More dry beans are in prospect than for last year. The 18 million bag crop is up 6 percent from '47 and 9 percent above 10-year average. The nearly 3 million bags of dry peas expected are only 46 percent of last year's production and 57 percent of 10-year average.

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	May 15 1948	June 15 1948	June 15 1948
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.22	2.11	2.22
Corn, bu. ....dol.	2.16	2.16	1.61
Peanuts, lb. .... ct.	10.4	10.4	12.0
Cotton, lb. .... ct.	35.27	35.22	31.12
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	1.96	1.87	1.86
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	19.60	22.90	18.20
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	23.70	24.80	13.60
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	25.30	26.00	16.90
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	23.40	25.00	14.80
Butterfat, lb. .... ct.	83.6	82.7	1/60.5
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ....dol.	2/ 4.63	4.61	1/ 3.58
Chickens, live, lb. .... ct.	28.5	30.5	28.6
Eggs, doz. .... ct.	41.5	43.4	1/47.5

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation  
2/ Revised



Though varying considerably by States on July 1, prospects for next year's citrus crops (1948 bloom) were good as a whole. Highest condition in California, lowest in Texas. Condition of oranges averaged 76 percent compared with 71 year ago and the 10-year July average of 74 percent. Grapefruit condition averaged only 59 percent compared with 69 percent year ago and the 10-year average of 64 percent.

#### Valencias Still Available; Lemons Plentiful

Of this year's orange crop (1947 bloom) nearly all were harvested by July 1 except California Valencias. Of the total California Valencias, estimated at 27.5 million boxes, about 19.5 million boxes are left for market this summer and fall. About 2 million boxes of California summer grapefruit were still available for harvest on July 1, plus some quantities in other States. This year's orange production (1947 bloom) is estimated at 111.7 million boxes--2 percent less than last year but 34 percent above average. This year's grapefruit crop is estimated at 62.9 million boxes--6 percent above last year's crop and 41 percent above average. California lemon crop is smaller than last season but carryover stocks were larger and utilization to July 1 was less. Lemons are almost as plentiful as in '47.

#### Peaches and Other Fruits

Peaches, grapes, and apricots, this year, will be above average, pears below both last year and average; smaller than average crop, also, of apples, plums and prunes. Total peach crop now estimated at 70.4 million bushels, compares with 82.6 million bushels last year and 66.7 million bushels average. The 10 Southern States will produce about 14.3 million bushels, only two-thirds of the record large crop last year. Grape crop is estimated at 3 million tons, 11 percent above average; pears, 26.4 million bushels, off 25 percent from last year's record crop and 13 percent below average. Prospects are excellent for pecans... good for walnuts and almonds...fair for filberts.

#### Summer Truck Less Than Last Year

Truck crop tonnage this summer is expected to be 7 percent less than in '47, but 5 percent above average. Acreage is down about 8 percent from last year. Cantaloups, eggplant and green peppers are larger crops than last year and also above average. Cauliflower, cabbage, spinach, carrots, celery and early summer onions are expected to be 9 to 28 percent above last year. Crops of snap beans, sweet corn, lettuce and tomatoes are smaller than last year, but above average. Lima beans, beets, green peas and watermelons are below last year, also below average.

#### Milk Per Cow Near Record; Total Output Low

Milk produced per cow July 1 was near record. But total production last month, 12.3 million pounds, was 4 percent below June '47, and was the smallest June output since '41. The decline in production is due to the continuing downward trend in milk cow numbers.

#### Smaller Egg Output Despite High Rate of Lay

Eggs per hen were highest of record for June but the total of 5 billion eggs produced was smallest for the month since '42, though still 10 percent above '37-46 average. Number of layers was 4 percent less than a year ago. Prices of eggs and chickens were at record heights for June but feed prices were relatively higher. Poultry feed, mid-June, cost \$4.59 per 100 pounds. Last year it was \$4.03; average, \$2.32.

#### Low Grade Cattle Relatively High

Prices of low grade cattle have been higher than usual compared to prices of better grades. Canner cows at Chicago in May were 41 percent higher than a year earlier. Common grade steers were 42 percent higher. But prime and choice steers brought only 25 percent more than they brought a year earlier.

#### Meat Output Down 10 Percent

Total meat output April-June is estimated to be about 10 percent less than a year earlier. Production is expected to continue below last year throughout the summer, fall and early winter. Slaughter of each class of meat animals will be smaller in the second half of '48 than a year earlier. Meat consumed per person second quarter of '48 was 2 to 3 pounds less than the 38 pounds consumed same quarter of '47.

#### Hog Prices Lower Than Cattle

Hog prices have been low relative to cattle prices because slaughter of cattle has been near the lowest level of the year and hog slaughter has been near its spring peak. Prices of hogs are likely to advance relative to cattle in the next few weeks as cattle slaughter increases and hog slaughter declines seasonally.

#### '48 Pig Crop May Almost Reach Last Year's Total

The spring pig crop totaled 51,421,000 head. Though larger than expected, it was the smallest since '41 and about 1½ million head below the '37-46 average. A fall pig crop of 31 million head is indicated, based on farmers' breeding intentions and average number of pigs per litter. This would bring total pigs in '48 to 82.4 million head, 2 percent below last year's total.

#### Prices Paid and Received Continue Up --Meat and Meat Animals Main Factors

Index of prices paid by farmers in mid-June, including interest and taxes, rose 1 point to the previous record high reached in January. This index of 251 compares with 230 mid-June last year. Higher prices were paid for food, principally meat. Furniture and building materials also were up. Feed prices fell off a little, mainly hay, bran, and oats. Recent increases in auto prices are not reflected in the mid-June index. Prices received by farmers moved up 6 index points to 295 mid-May to mid-June, but were still 12 points below the high level reached in January. Hogs increased \$3.30 per hundredweight; cattle, \$1.10; veal calves, \$.70; lambs, \$1.60. Meat animal price index is at all time high, nearly 4 times the 1909-14 base.

#### Fruit Prices Up, Truck Down

Index of prices received for fruit rose 10 percent mid-May to mid-June, and was highest since last October. But fruit index still was about one-third less than a year ago. Truck crops index took a 49-point drop and is a little lower than a year ago. Truck prices are roughly twice the 1909-14 base; fruit, 1½ times as high.

#### All Civilian Workers Total 61.3 Million

High level business activity and high employment continue to support the strong consumer demand. Civilians employed in June reached 61.3 million (Census) up from 58.7 million in May. Number employed in June, year ago, 60.1 million; June, 2 years ago, 56.4 million.

#### Farm Employment Down a Little --Farm Wages Reach New High

Workers employed on farms July 1 totaled 11.1 million compared with 11.5 million year ago. Fewer family workers were at work owing to more favorable weather and advanced season. Number of hired workers, about same as year ago, totaled 2.7 million; family workers, 8.4 million or .4 million less than year ago. Farm wage rates reached a new high...up 8 percent from April 1 and 7 percent above a year ago. Per day without board averaged \$5.40 compared with \$5.17 year ago and July 1, '35-39, average of \$1.53. Peak in 1920, after first World War, was \$3.46.

#### Million to Farms Last Year; 1½ Million Move Away

Nearly a million persons moved to farms last year from cities, towns and villages. But same year more than 1½ million moved away from farms. This loss was nearly made up by excess of births on farms over deaths, nearly half million--highest natural increase since '25. Number people living on farms January '48 was 27,440,000, nearly the same as a year earlier. See June BAE "Farm Population Estimates."

#### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	June 1948
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14= 100	295
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes .....	1910-14= 100	251
Parity ratio .....	1910-14= 100	118
Wholesale prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	280
Retail prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	1/ 272
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14= 100	444
Weekly factory earnings .....	1910-14= 100	2/ 462
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-June 1947	Jan.-June 1948
Milk, (Bil. lb.) .....	62.5	59.7
Eggs, (Bil.) .....	33.1	32.5
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	3/ 3156	3/ 2568
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) ..	3/ 304	3/ 261
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) .....	3/ 3983	3/ 3713
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	3/ 7744	3/ 6808
1/ May figure.		
2/ Factory payroll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variations. April figure.		
3/ January-May		